

## **WHAT I CLAIM IS:**

1. A method for managing a predetermined set of email messages on a source email server from a remote email network, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving an email message at the source email server, wherein said email message has a destination email address in a first field, a code in a second field and an instruction in a third field, wherein said destination email address corresponds to a subscriber account on the remote email network;

(b) checking a database to determine a permission for the destination email address; and

(c) performing the instruction on the set of email messages if the permission is granted.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of populating the database with subscriber email addresses corresponding to subscriber accounts authorized to remotely manage email messages.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of populating the database with a device type associated with each subscriber email address, and wherein step (b) further comprises the steps of checking the database for the device type corresponding to the destination email address, determining if the device type is compatible with the instruction, and modifying the instruction according to the device type.

4. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of receiving a second email message at the source email server, wherein said second email message comprises a local subscriber's identification in a message sender field and wherein said second email message comprises at least one subscriber email address in a message body field.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the code comprises a predetermined data string and wherein the second field is a message subject field.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the first field is a message sender field.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the code comprises a predetermined data string and wherein the second field comprises a message addressee field.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein the predetermined string corresponds to an email account on the source server.
9. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of sending an information message to the destination email address if the permission is denied.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein the instruction is a retrieve command, and wherein in response to said instruction, step (c) comprises sending the predetermined set of email messages to the destination email address.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein the instruction comprises a command and a criteria, and wherein in response to said instruction, step (c) further comprises the steps of searching a mailbox associated with the subscriber account to select the predetermined set of email messages according to the criteria.
12. The method of claim 11, wherein the command is a retrieve command.
13. The method of claim 11, wherein the command is a delete command.
14. The method of claim 11, wherein the command comprises a retrieve command and a delete command.
15. The method of claim 11, wherein the criteria comprises a sender's name string.
16. The method of claim 11, wherein the criteria comprises a subject string.
17. The method of claim 11, wherein the criteria comprises a date string.



device type associated with each subscriber email address, and wherein step (c) further comprises the steps of checking the database for a device type corresponding to the destination email address, determining if the device type is compatible with the instruction, and modifying the instruction according to the device type.

26. The method of claim 23, wherein step (a) further comprises receiving a second email message at the source email server, wherein said second email message comprises a local subscriber's identification in a message sender field and at least one subscriber email address in a message body field and wherein the database is populated with said at least one subscriber email address and said local subscriber's identification.

27. The method of claim 23, wherein the instruction is a retrieve command, and wherein in response to said instruction, step (d) comprises sending the set of email messages to the destination email address.

28. The method of claim 23, wherein the instruction comprises a command and a search criteria, and wherein in response to said instruction, step (d) further comprises the steps of searching a mailbox associated with the subscriber account to select the predetermined set of email messages according to the search criteria.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the command is a retrieve command.

30. The method of claim 28, wherein the command is a delete command.

31. The method of claim 28, wherein the command comprises a retrieve command and a delete command.

32. The method of claim 28, wherein the search criteria comprises a sender's name string.

33. The method of claim 28, wherein the search criteria comprises a subject string.

34. The method of claim 28, wherein the search criteria comprises a date string.





